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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **SHERWOOD SERVICES AG [CH/CH]**; Bahnhofstrasse 29, CH-8200 Schaffhausen (CH).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **CHAPMAN, Troy, J.** [US/US]; 7381 E. Hinsdale Court, Englewood, CO 80112 (US). **SHIELDS, Chelsea** [US/US]; 711B Alpine Avenue, Boulder, CO 80304 (US). **SCHECHTER, David A.** [US/US]; 2662 Juniper Avenue, Boulder, CO 80304 (US).

(74) Agents: **FARBER, Mark, et al.**; US Surgical, A Division of Tyco Healthcare Group, LP, 150 Glover Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06856 (US).

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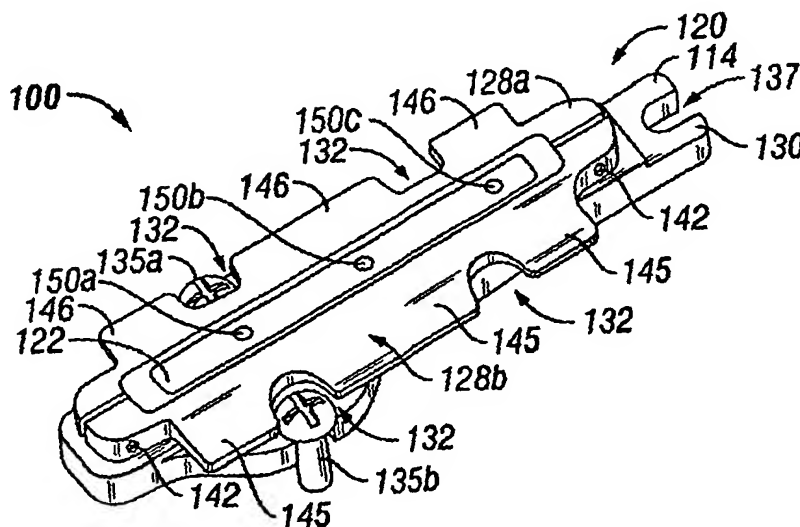
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(54) Title: **ELECTROSURGICAL INSTRUMENT WHICH REDUCES THERMAL DAMAGE TO ADJACENT TISSUE**



(57) Abstract: An electrode sealing assembly (100) for use in combination with an electrosurgical instrument includes first and second jaw members (120). Each jaw members includes an insulative housing (114), a thermally conductive, electrically non-conductive material (128) and a sealing plate (122). The insulative housing (114) has a series of electromechanical interfaces (125a, 125b, 125c) which mate with a corresponding series of electromechanical interfaces which extend from the sealing plate (122) such that the sealing plates are a capable of conducting bipolar energy through tissue held between the jaw members. The thermally conductive, electrically non-conductive material (128) is configured to encapsulate and secure the sealing plate (122) to the insulative housing (114).

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/13273

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61B 18/18

US CL : 606/51

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 606/41, 45-52

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EAST: thermally, electrically, conductive, electrode

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X, E — Y, E	US 6,770,072 B1 (TRUCKAI et al) 03 August 2004 (03.08.2004), See whole document, col. 16, lines 5-25	1,2,9,10,13,14 4,5,7
Y	US 6,398,779 B1 (BUYSSE et al) 04 June 2002 (04.06.2002), See col. 8, lines 45-51	4,5,7
A	US 2003/0069571 A1 (TREAT et al) 10 April 2003 (10.04.2003), See paragraph 85	1-14

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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

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See patent family annex.

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

Linda Dvorak

Telephone No. (703) 308-0858

Sheila H. Veney
Paralegal Specialist
Tech. Center 3700